

JOURNAL
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE
STATE OF TEXAS:

BEING A
5
CALLED SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE,

BEGUN AND
HELD AT THE CITY OF AUSTIN, APRIL 6, 1882.

WILL LAMBERT, CHIEF CLERK.

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HOUSE JOURNAL.

FIRST DAY.

HALL OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
AUSTIN, TEXAS, April 6, 1882.

In obedience to the proclamation by his Excellency, O. M. Roberts, Governor of Texas, convening the Seventeenth Legislature to meet in special session at Austin, the seat of government, on this, the sixth day of April, 1882, the House of Representatives was called to order at 12 o'clock M., by the Speaker, Hon. Geo. R. Reeves.

Roll called; quorum present.

Absent—Messrs. Anderson, Blacker, Bruce of Johnson (deceased), Daugherty, Gould, Haidusek, King (resigned), Linn, Linton, Marr (resigned), Oliver, Polley, Plumley, Smith of Titus, Stewart of Kinney, and Truitt.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. B. W. Brown.

By direction of the Speaker, the following proclamation of His Excellency, the Governor, was read:

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR OF TEXAS, CONVENING A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
AUSTIN, TEXAS, March 1, 1882.

WHEREAS, An extraordinary occasion has arisen for the action of the Legislature; now, therefore, I, O. M. Roberts, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the State, do issue this, my proclamation, convening the Legislature in special session at Austin, the seat of government, on sixth of April, 1882, for the following purposes, to-wit:

1. To apportion the State into congressional districts, and establish the same by law.

2. To apportion the State into senatorial and representative districts, and establish the same by law.

3. To make provision for supplying the place of the capitol that has been burned, in every respect that may be necessary until the new capitol shall have been finished; for supplying all books, furniture, and other things made necessary by said burning; and for every other thing that may be necessary for the efficient operations of the legislative, executive and judicial departments of the government in the discharge of their respective duties and functions.

4. To make provision for everything that may be deemed necessary to facilitate the erection of the new State capitol, and to take such other action as may be deemed proper in regard to the buildings, lots, and other things within the capitol square.

5. To take action, by appropriations or otherwise, for supplying water and for making other necessary improvements to the Lunatic Asylum, and to other public buildings at the seat of government.

6. To make further improvements and regulations for the State Penitentiaries, and in regard to the penal servitude of the State generally, in anticipation of the expiration of the present lease, which terminates on the first day of January, next year, prior to the regular session of the Legislature.

7. To take such action as may be necessary, in regard to the University of Texas and its branches; in everything relating to their government, to the relation between them, to the increase and disposition of their funds; and to take such further action as may be deemed necessary and proper in any and every respect for the support and maintenance of the Prairie View Normal School, and for the discharge of its debts and liabilities.

8. To make further provision for the disposition, by sale, lease, or otherwise, of the lands belonging to public free schools, to the Asylum, and of the lands reserved to pay the principal of the State debt, and to provide for the investment of the proceeds of the sale of the same, so as to require the railroads in the State to so as to render travel and transportation safe, and to prevent abuse, and unjust dis-

criminations; to regulate freights and passenger tariffs, and to provide practical remedies for the enforcement of such laws, not only on the companies, but on the officers who manage and control said railroads.

10. To reduce the taxes, both ad valorem and occupation, so far as it may be found consistent with the support of an efficient State government.

11. To consider and act upon such other subjects as may be presented during said session by the Governor.

In testimony whereof, I have hereto signed my name and caused the seal of State to be affixed, at the city of Austin, this first day of March, A. D., 1882.

By the Governor:

T. H. BOWMAN,
Secretary of State.

O. M. ROBERTS,
Governor.

Mr. Baker moved that the members of this House who have been elected since the regular session of the Seventeenth Legislature be sworn in. The motion prevailed.

Whereupon Messrs. Brown, Geiger, Rodrigues and Stewart of Hopkins, came forward, presented their credentials, took the oath of office, and were seated as duly elected members of the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Legislature.

On motion of Mr. Matlock, Mr. Daugherty was indefinitely excused, on account of sickness in his family.

On motion of Mr. Finlay, Mr. Plumley was excused until to-morrow, on account of high water.

On motion of Mr. Wurzbach, Mr. Anderson was excused for to-day, on account of business.

On motion of Mr. Upton, Mr. Haidusek was excused until to-morrow evening, on account of sickness in his family.

On motion of Mr. Deaman, Mr. Polley was excused until to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. McComb, Mr. Linton was excused until Monday, on account of important business.

On motion of Mr. Perrinot, Mr. Linn was excused until the seventeenth instant, on account of important business.

On motion of Mr. Baker, Mr. Truitt was excused until to-morrow, on account of important business.

On motion of Mr. Peacock, Mr. Oliver was excused until to-morrow.

Mr. Finlay presented the following communication:

COLLEGE STATION, April 2, 1882.

To the Hon. Geo. R. Reeves, Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives Austin, Texas.

GENTLEMEN It is with feelings of deep regret that my scholastic duties compel me to sever my most pleasant connection with your honorable body.

I herewith tender my resignation as Postmaster and Messenger of the House, and in doing so, I take this occasion to express to you my profound gratitude for the uniform courtesy and kindness shown to me, both individually and as a body, during the time I have had the honor to serve your honorable body.

With the best wishes for your health and happiness, I am

Your obedient servant,

QUITMAN FINLAY.

On motion of Mr. McComb, the resignation of Mr. Quitman Finlay, as Postmaster and Messenger, was accepted.

Mr. Upton offered the following resolution.

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House be authorized to obtain, for the use of the members and officers of the House, one copy